

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1724

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

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DIA WASHDC

USCINCEUR

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PFOR CY TU

SUBJ: MAIN STORIES OF CYPRIOT PRESS

1. SUMMARY: IN PAST FEW DAYS, GREEK AND TURK PAPERS HAVE DWELT INTER ALIA ON MILITARY SHIPMENTS TO TURKEY, FALLOUT FROM DEMIREL'S LE MONDE REMARKS, MAY 21 PAPHOS VISIT BY DENKTASH AND CLERIDES, CENTO MEETING, SBA'S, AND COMMUTATION OF DEATH SENTENCE FOR GREEK CYPRIOT WHO HAD MURDERED TURK CYPRIOT WOMEN AND CHILDREN. END SUMMARY.

2. MILITARY SHIPMENTS TO TURKEY. MAY 21 GREEK PRESS HIGHLIGHTED MAKARIOS STATEMENT AFTER U.S. SENATE VOTE (REF NICOSIA 1679) AND BRADEMAS CLAIM THAT HOUSE UNLIKELY TO TAKE UP SIMILAR BILL AT THIS TIME. LEFTIST PRESS -- COMMUNIST HARAVGHI, LYSSARIDES' TA NEA -- HEADLINED THAT USG IS ENCOURAGING TURK INTRANSIGENCE ON CYPRUS. SENSATIONALIST MAKHI CALLED SENATE VOTE "STAB IN BACK." PAPER
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CLOSEST TO MAKARIOS, PHILELEFTHEROS, DID NOT DWELL ON SENATE

VOTE OR ARCHBISHOP'S STATEMENT. SUBSEQUENT UK ANNOUNCEMENT IN PARLIAMENT OF WILLINGNESS TO CONSIDER TURK ARMS REQUESTS HAS DRAWN SOMEWHAT LESS NOTICE. PIO MAY 22 SAID THAT MAKARIOS STATEMENT ON SENATE VOTE ALSO APPLIES TO UK OR ANY OTHER POTENTIAL SUPPLIER OF ARMS TO TURKEY. MAY 23 EDITORIALS IN HARAVGHI, TA NEA, AND ULTRA-RIGHT PATRIS CRITICAL OF UK DECISION.

3. DEMIREL REMARKS IN LE MONDE INTERVIEW, RESULTANT GOG DEMARCH AND GOT CLARIFICATION, HAVE FIGURED PROMINENTLY. MOST GREEK PAPERS CALL DEMIREL'S COMMENTS EXTREMELY HARMFUL, CAGLAYANGIL'S GLOSS INADEQUATE. PRO-CLERIDES' AGHON WROTE ABOUT TURK "ULTIMATUM" WHICH HAD "TORPEDOED" TALKS; PATRIS SPOKE OF A DEMIREL "BOMB." HARAVGHI DECLARED THAT REMARKS HAD WRECKED "EVERY CHANCE" OF FRANK DISCUSSION OF CYPRUS PROBLEM.

4. DENKTASH/CLERIDES VISIT TO PAPHOS MAY 21. MOST GREEK PRESS HIGHLIGHTED VISIT AS PROOF OF ABILITY GREEK AND TURK CYPRIOTS TO LIVE TOGETHER. DOVES RELEASED BY CLERIDES, DENKTASH IN PAPHOS MADE SYMBOLIC IMPACT. MAY 23 EDITS IN HARAVGHI, PHILELEFTHEROS, AGHON DRAW CONCLUSION THAT CYPRIOTS CAN LIVE IN PEACE IF THERE IS NO FOREIGN INTERFERENCE. TURK PRESS DISAGREED, PLAYED UP DEMAND BY TURK CYPRIOTS TO MOVE NORTH. (COMMENT: FIRST HAND REPORTS INDICATE TURKISH PRESS ACCURATELY REFLECTED CROWD'S MOOD. END COMMENT.)

5. CENTO MEETING. GREEK AND TURK PAPERS ARE FOLLOWING CENTO DISCUSSION CLOSELY. GREEK PRESS REFLECTS GENERAL EXPECTATION OF UK/U.S. PRESSURE ON TURKEY, LEADING TOWARD DIRECT "INTERVENTION" BY PRESIDENT FORD AT BRUSSELS SUMMIT NEXT WEEK. LEFTIST PRESS REMAINS HOSTILE TO ALL EFFORTS BY NATO POWERS TO ADDRESS CYPRUS PROBLEM. TA NEA CLAIMS MAY 22 THAT SECRETARY KISSINGER IN VIENNA HAD REJECTED GROMYKO OVERTURE FOR JOINT U.S.-USSR ACTION ON CYPRUS PROBLEM.

6. SBA'S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONTINUES DEBATE ON AKEL-SPONSORED THESIS THAT U.S. PRESENCE ON SBA'S CONTRAVENES TREATY OF ESTABLISHMENT (REF NICOSIA 1573). ALL SPEAKERS HAVE TAKEN HOSTILE STAND TOWARD SBA'S; NO ONE HAS DEFENDED GOC ACQUIESCENCE IN U.S. PRESENCE THERE. MAY 23 PRESS REPORTS THAT UK HAS INFORMED GOC OF DECISION TO REDUCE SUBSTANTIALY ITS FORCES ON DHEKE-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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LIA AND AKROTIRI SBA'S. THIS HAS RESURRECTED EARLIER, OFTEN QUITE FANCIFUL, CHARGES THAT USG -- WITH MARINES, RADAR INSTALLATIONS, AND MISSILE LAUNCHERS -- HAS ALREADY BEGUN TO FILL VACUUM. GREEK EDITORIALS ON SBA ISSUE SHOW SURPRISING AGREEMENT, LEFT TO RIGHT, ON PERFDY OF ALBION AND CUPIDITY OF UNCLE SAM

7. COMMUTATION OF DEATH SENTENCE. GREEK PRESS REPORTED, WITHOUT

FANFARE, THAT ARCHBISHOP HAS COMMUTED DEATH SENTENCE IMPOSED ON
GREEK CYPRIOT WHO MURDERED FIVE TURK CYPRIOT WOMEN AND CHILDREN.
TURK PRESS MAY 23 REACTED WITH WRATHFUL COMMENT AGAINST MAKARIOS.
(COMMENT: AS MAN OF CHURCH, MAKARIOS TAKES POSITION THAT HE
CANNOT SIGN DEATH WARRANTS. AS BEST WE CAN DETERMINE, SINCE
INDEPENDENCE ONLY A FEW CYPRIOTS HAVE BEEN JAILED, AND NONE
EXECUTEDN FOR "INTERCOMMUNAL" CRIMES. END COMMENT.)
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